

Rural District of Whitchurch, Hants.

Area, 30,609 Acres; Population, 5,822 (1901).

ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year ended DECEMBER 31, 1908.

GENTLEMEN,—

THE Rural District of Whitchurch, Hants, is situated in the Valley of the Test, and consists of three divisions, viz., Whitchurch, Overton, and St. Mary Bourne, each with some adjoining Parishes. The occupation of the inhabitants is mainly agricultural; but a certain number are employed in a Paper Mill, a Jam Factory, and Slop-work (Clothing), also a few in a small Silk Mill.

REGISTERED BIRTHS—

Whitchurch Division	...	...	...	75
Overton „	...	...	...	47
St. Mary Bourne „	...	...	...	25
Total	...	...	...	147

DEATHS—

Whitchurch Division	...	...	...	39
Overton „	...	...	...	21
St. Mary Bourne „	...	...	...	17
Total	...	...	...	77

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE—

Whitchurch	...	...	...	2
Overton	...	...	...	3
St. Mary Bourne	...	...	...	1
Total	...	...	...	6

DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS WITHIN THE DISTRICT—

Whitchurch Workhouse	10
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Comparing with the previous year, we have—

BIRTHS—

			1907.	1908.
Whitchurch	82	75
Overton	...	...	47	47
St. Mary Bourne	...	...	21	25
Total	...	...	150	147

DEATHS—

			1907.	1908.
Whitchurch	...	...	28	39
Overton ...	...	...	17	21
St. Mary Bourne	...	...	11	17
Total	...	...	56	77

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE—				1907.	1908.
Whitchurch	...	...	...	6	2
Overton...	...	...	...	3	3
St. Mary Bourne	...	...	...	3	1
				—	—
Total	...	...	...	12	6
				—	—

DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS WITHIN THE DISTRICT—

				1907.	1908.
Whitchurch Workhouse	...	...	...	7	10
Isolation Hospital	...	...	...	0	0
				—	—

DEATH RATES FOR THE WHOLE DISTRICT—

			1907.	1908.	1908.
General	...	...	9·6	12·3	Nett 13·2
Infant	...	...	80·0	40·8	

BIRTH RATE PER 1000 OF POPULATION—1907, 25·7 ; 1908, 25·2.

On comparing the statistics on Table I., annexed, with the average of the past ten years it will be seen that the number of Births in the whole District has fallen from 152·6, or a rate of 26·4, to 147, or a rate of 25·2, and that the Deaths, which averaged 71, or a rate of 12·2, are for this year 72, or a rate of 12·3, but this latter requires to be corrected by the addition of 5 Deaths which occurred in Public Institutions outside the District, so bringing the Nett Deaths to 77, or a rate of 13·2. It should be observed that the deaths of Infants under one year of age, which for the past ten years averaged 15·0, or a rate of 97·0, has fallen to 6, or a rate of 40·8.

The Infant Mortality Table V., introduced 1905, shows that of the 6 Deaths of Children under one year of age 3 lived less than one week owing to causes connected with birth, and that the deaths of 3 only were due to other causes ; and that the Illegitimate Births number 4, with no Death among them.

The Notification of Infectious Diseases Act, adopted February, 1890, shows the following results :—

WHITCHURCH—

Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	4
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	13
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	8
					—
Total	...	...	...	...	25
					—

OVERTON—

Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	1
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	1
					—
Total	...	...	...	...	2
					—

ST. MARY BOURNE—

Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	1
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	1
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	1
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	2
					—
Total	..	...	...	...	5
					—

Total in Rural District—32.

Deaths from Notifiable Infectious Diseases—1.

The following is the return of new cases of Sickness attended as Paupers by the Medical Officer of each District during the year:—

Whitchurch	...	...	...	...	156
Overton	...	...	...	...	135
St. Mary Bourne	...	...	...	...	91

Of which Influenza, Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Rheumatism form the chief features.

With regard to the Health of the District it may be said to have been good generally, but the list of Deaths is swollen by the number of old people, 20 being upwards of 75 years of age, of whom 9 were over 80 years of age.

INFLUENZA was prevalent during the earlier months of the year, and occurred at intervals later, 5 deaths being primarily attributed to it.

BRONCHITIS AND PNEUMONIA caused jointly 18 deaths.

DIPHTHERIA.—Six cases were notified during the year, viz., three in January and February in Whitchurch, one in May in St. Mary Bourne, one in August at Overton, and one in December at an outlying part of Whitchurch; these were all admitted to the Isolation Hospital, with the exception of the one at Overton, an adult isolated at home. There was no apparent connection between any of the cases.

ERYSIPELAS was notified in 15 cases, the greater part being in the hot weather of June and July.

SCARLET FEVER.—One case in an adult was notified from an outlying part of St. Mary Bourne in January, and was satisfactorily isolated at home; its origin could not be traced. On November 5th a case was notified in Whitchurch, and on the same day five cases from one house at Hurstbourne Priors, a village in the Whitchurch Division, four of them being servants and one a child of the family. The case in Whitchurch was removed to the Isolation Hospital on the 6th, and the four servants on the 10th. No satisfactory explanation of the outbreak could be ascertained, though sore throat was said to have been prevalent in the village. On December 17th a case of a child attending the Hurstbourne Priors Schools was notified and removed to the Hospital the same day. On December 21st, in consequence of a report that a child was ill at an isolated house near the village, and that no doctor had been called in, I visited the house with the Inspector of Nuisances, and found one child evidently desquamating. Three other children were at home that morning, but as they had been attending the school I recommended the managers to close the school, it being only two days before the holidays, and directed that the schools be disinfected. I ascertained that a doctor had been sent for that morning, and the case was subsequently notified. I reported this case to your Council, who directed that the parent should be written to and cautioned. No further case has occurred to this date (January 13th, 1909).

PUERPERAL FEVER.—Of the two cases classed under this head, one of which was fatal, there is little to be said, except that they were attended professionally and followed severe complications in delivery. A nurse, who is a midwife, was in attendance on each case, and I notified the same to the Inspector of Midwives, who visited them and gave instructions.

PHTHISIS caused five deaths, viz., two in Whitchurch, two in Overton, and one in St. Mary Bourne. Disinfection was subsequently carried out.

During the year 11 Patients were admitted to the Isolation Hospital, viz., 5 Diphtheria and 6 Scarlet Fever. The Hospital is provided by the District Council, and its accommodation is sufficient; it has certainly proved of great service and benefit to this Rural District.

Disinfection of premises, bedding, and clothing, where infectious disease has occurred, and in other cases as recommended, has been carefully carried out by the Inspector of Nuisances, and disinfectants supplied as required. The arrangement made by your Council with the Inspector of Nuisances to undertake these duties has proved satisfactory.

As regards DRAINAGE there is no regular system of Sewerage, but in the more populous places in Whitchurch and Overton, through which the River Test flows, drains and gutters have been laid for the conveyance of surface water usually to the river; into these a good deal of foul matter from the roads finds its way, and also slop water from sinks and back premises, but in no instance is any closet known to connect with these drains. The plan for flushing certain drains in Whitchurch by means of an inlet from the river still works well, and the springs which flow into the drain in a part of its course aid in keeping it clean with the help of the Scavenger, who sweeps the gutters daily. During the year all the old closets over the river, or otherwise known to be connected with it, have been altered and disconnected.

THE WATER SUPPLY of the District is by wells and tube pumps, attention being given to the covering of wells and raising of kerbs to avoid pollution from surface water. Samples of water have been examined from time to time, and certificates for supply to new houses granted as required.

THE DISPOSAL OF EXCREMENT in the District is mainly on the Pail System or cemented vaults, and the contents are ordered to be emptied at regular intervals by the Scavenger of the localities of Whitchurch and Overton and carted away, the St. Mary Bourne locality not requiring a Scavenger. House refuse and rubbish is removed by the Scavenger in Whitchurch and Overton, who also attends to the gutters and the cleansing of the streets.

PIGGERIES near dwellings have as usual been dealt with from time to time by the Inspector of Nuisances, and in two instances of serious nuisance the matter was specially dealt with by your Council and the nuisance abated. The keeping of Poultry in cramped and confined places close to houses has been lessened.

THE SLAUGHTER HOUSES have been inspected, cleansed and whitewashed as required.

THE DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS have been inspected and improvements made as to cleanliness, ventilation, and drainage, in conformity with the model regulations of the Local Government Board, which were adopted in January, 1905. Special attention has been given to this subject during the year, the register has been revised, and 17 new cowkeepers added to it. Attention has been given to the improvement of the yards, which, as previously stated, were often in a filthy condition.

THE BAKEHOUSES have been inspected; whitewashing and sanitation attended to as required. One was ordered to be cleansed. There is no underground bakehouse in the district.

Several old COTTAGES have been whitewashed and repaired.

Many of the COTTAGES are too small and incommodious for the number in the family, so leading to overcrowding, which is difficult to abate, as there is a lack of larger cottages. Owners should be more careful not to let small cottages to large families. Several new houses have been built in different parts of the district. There is no supervision over the erection of new houses, and drainage sometimes subsequently becomes a difficulty.

INSPECTIONS have been made under the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901. Attention given to cleanliness and sanitary conditions, and to dwellings of home workers, especially with regard to infectious illness, of which there has again been none amongst them during the year.

When INFECTIOUS ILLNESS has occurred in a house the children have been excluded from School by notice to the Teachers.

The ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS in the District were improved, and put into a good sanitary condition with improved water supply during 1905. On inspection the urinal at one school was found to be blocked and overflowing. In consequence of infectious illness in connection with the Schools at Hurstbourne Priors and Whitchurch, I recommended that the former be closed two days before the Christmas holidays and disinfected, and that the latter be disinfected when closed for the holidays. This was carried out by the Inspector of Nuisances.

Many INSPECTIONS of the District have been made, both systematic and otherwise, and reports made to your Council of matters to be dealt with, which have now been attended to. The scavenging in Whitechurch and Overton and the cleansing of the streets has been generally well attended to. The dust nuisance on the roads has been great, and the frequent passage of the military and motor cars through Overton and Whitechurch has necessitated much watering of the streets, the frequency of which it is desirable should be increased.

Your Council having recently considered and approved of my suggestion that Bacteriological examination of throats of persons suspected to be suffering from Diphtheria, and in other instances as required, should under certain circumstances be procured, it is hoped that the result will prove satisfactory and in the end economical.

During the year I have been in frequent communication with your Inspector of Nuisances, Mr. J. S. Knight, who has rendered much willing and valuable assistance, and submitted the following summary of work carried out under his supervision by order of the District Council and Medical Officer of Health, and he reports a general improvement in Dairies and Cowsheds in the District :—

Cottages Whitewashed and Repaired	...	...	21
Dwelling Houses Disinfected	...	...	17
Bedding, &c., Disinfected	...	...	22
Schools Disinfected...	...	...	2
Wells Cleaned Out...	...	...	7
„ New Kerbs	...	...	9
„ Repaired	...	...	4
Overcrowding Abated	...	...	1
Closets Repaired and Improved	...	...	14
„ Disconnected from River	...	...	10
Public Pumps Repaired	...	...	6
Certificates for Water Supply Granted	...	...	6
Drains Repaired and Improved	...	...	6
Pigs Removed	...	...	4 lots
Pig-sties Cleansed	...	...	10
New Frames to Catchpits	...	...	4
Dairies and Cowsheds Inspected	...	...	23
Bakchouses Inspected	...	...	9
Slaughter Houses Inspected	...	...	4
Factories and Workshops Inspected	...	...	4
Outworkers Houses Inspected	...	...	32
School Premises Inspected	...	...	5
Inspections Made	...	...	280

And I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

HENRY HEMSTED,

Medical Officer of Health,

R.D. Whitechurch, Hants.

TO THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF WHITCHURCH, HANTS,
January 15, 1909.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of whole District during 1908 and Previous Years.
WHITCHURCH (HANTS) RURAL DISTRICT.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.	
				Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.					Number.	Rate.*
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1898	5658	182	32.1	25	137.3	95	16.7	10	No INFORMATION.		95	16.7
1899	5658	169	29.8	14	82.8	64	11.3	2			64	11.3
1900	5658	151	26.6	16	105.9	78	13.7	6			78	13.7
1901	5822	152	26.1	17	111.8	77	13.2	8			77	13.2
1902	5822	148	25.4	16	108.0	60	10.3	3			60	10.3
1903	5822	146	25.0	20	136.9	82	14.0	8			82	14.0
1904	5822	156	26.7	13	83.3	63	10.8	7			63	10.8
1905	5822	135	23.1	7	51.8	61	10.4	5			61	10.4
1906	5822	137	23.5	10	72.9	74	12.7	9			74	12.7
1907	5822	150	25.7	12	80.0	56	9.6	7			56	9.6
Averages for years 1898-1907.	5772.8	152.6	26.4	15.0	97.0	71.0	12.2	6.5			71.0	12.2
1908	5822	147	25.2	6	40.8	72	12.3	10	0	5	77	13.2

*Rates in Columns 4, 8 and 13 calculated per 1000 of estimated population.

Area of District in Acres (exclusive of area covered by water)—30,609.

Total population at all ages (at Census of 1901)—5822.

Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District:—
Hants County Hospital, Winchester.

Other Institutions, the deaths in which have been distributed among the several localities in the District:—Cottage Hospital, Andover.

TABLE II.

Vital Statistics of separate Localities in 1908 and previous years.
WHITCHURCH (HANTS) RURAL DISTRICT.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.	WHOLE DISTRICT. 1.				WHITCHURCH DIVISION AND WORKHOUSE. 2.				OVERTON DIVISION. 3.				ST. MARY BOURNE DIVISION. 4.			
	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births Regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births Regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births Regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births Regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
1898 ...	5658	182	95	25	2958	71	49	6	1668	80	34	14	1032	31	12	5
1899 ...	5658	169	64	14	2958	85	29	5	1668	57	26	8	1032	27	9	1
1900 ...	5658	151	78	16	2958	72	42	7	1668	47	21	9	1032	32	15	0
1901 ...	5822	152	77	17	2974	69	43	9	1671	57	19	5	1177	26	15	3
1902 ...	5822	148	60	16	2974	69	30	9	1671	44	15	3	1177	35	15	4
1903 ...	5822	146	82	20	2974	72	45	12	1671	49	22	7	1177	25	15	1
1904 ...	5822	156	63	13	2974	65	35	7	1671	55	13	5	1177	36	15	1
1905 ...	5822	135	61	7	2974	74	33	4	1671	38	17	2	1177	23	11	1
1906 ...	5822	137	74	10	2974	68	39	4	1671	42	19	4	1177	27	16	2
1907 ...	5822	150	56	12	2974	82	28	6	1671	47	17	3	1177	21	11	3
Averages of Years 1898 to 1907 ...	5772.8	152.6	71.0	15.0	2969.2	72.7	37.3	6.9	1670.1	51.6	20.3	6.0	1133.5	28.3	13.4	2.1
1908 ...	5822	147	77	6	2974	75	39	2	1671	47	21	3	1177	25	17	1

TABLE III.
Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during the Year 1908.
WHITCHURCH (HANTS) RURAL DISTRICT.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.			NO. OF CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL FROM EACH LOCALITY.		
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						Whitchurch Division W. & H.	Overton Division.	St. Mary Bourne Division.	Whitchurch Division W. & H.	Overton Division.	St. Mary Bourne Division.
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards.						
Diphtheria (Including Membranous Croup)	6	...	...	4	1	1	...	4	1	1	4	0	1
Erysipelas ...	15	...	...	1	2	10	2	13	1	1	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever...	9	...	...	4	3	2	...	8	0	1	6	0	0
Puerperal Fever	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Totals ...	32	...	...	9	6	15	2	25	2	5	10	0	1

Isolation Hospital: Whitchurch (Hants) Rural District. Total Cases Removed to Hospital ... 11.
Total available beds ... 12. Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated ... 2.

TABLE IV.
Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1908.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN OR BELONGING TO WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.							DEATHS IN OR BELONGING TO LOCALITIES (AT ALL AGES).			TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT.
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Whit-church Division.	Overton Division.	St. Mary Bourne Division.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Epidemic Influenza ...	5	...	...	...	...	1	4	4	...	1	1
Enteritis ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Puerperal Fever ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) }	5	...	...	...	2	3	...	2	2	1	...
Other Tubercular Diseases	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
Bronchitis ...	12	2	...	...	...	...	10	6	3	3	3
Pneumonia ...	6	...	...	...	1	4	1	1	4	1	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs }	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	2	...
Cirrhosis of Liver ...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Premature Birth ...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
Heart diseases ...	11	...	...	...	...	6	5	9	1	1	3
Accidents ...	2	...	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...
Suicides ...	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	1	...
Injury at Birth (Delayed Labor)	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
All other causes...	24	...	...	...	...	13	11	10	9	5	2
All causes ...	77	6	2	1	3	31	34	39	21	17	10

TABLE V.

Infantile Mortality during the Year 1908.**Deaths from stated causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.****WHITCHURCH (HANTS) RURAL DISTRICT.**

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
ALL CAUSES—																	
Certified ...	3	...	1	...	4	...	...	...	1	...	0	...	...	...	...	1	6
Uncertified ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
<i>Diarrhœal Diseases</i>																	
Enteritis } Muco-enteritis } Gastro-enteritis }	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
<i>Wasting Diseases</i>																	
Premature Birth...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Injury at Birth	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
<i>Other Causes :—</i>																	
Bronchitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
	3	...	1	...	4	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	6

Births in the Year ... Legitimate, 143 ; Illegitimate, 4.

Deaths in the Year ... Legitimate, 6 ; Illegitimate, 0.

Deaths from all Causes at all Ages 77. Population (estimated to the middle of 1908) 5822.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1908 on the Administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces and Homework.

1.—INSPECTION.	2.—DEFECTS FOUND.
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ... 3	No Nuisances under the Public Health Acts. Section 22 not adopted, Sanitary Accommodation Sufficient.
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) 2	
Total 5	

3.—OTHER MATTERS.

Homework Lists Received 2, Outworkers 60.

Inspections of Outworkers' Premises 32.

Workshops on the Register at the end of the year 2.

